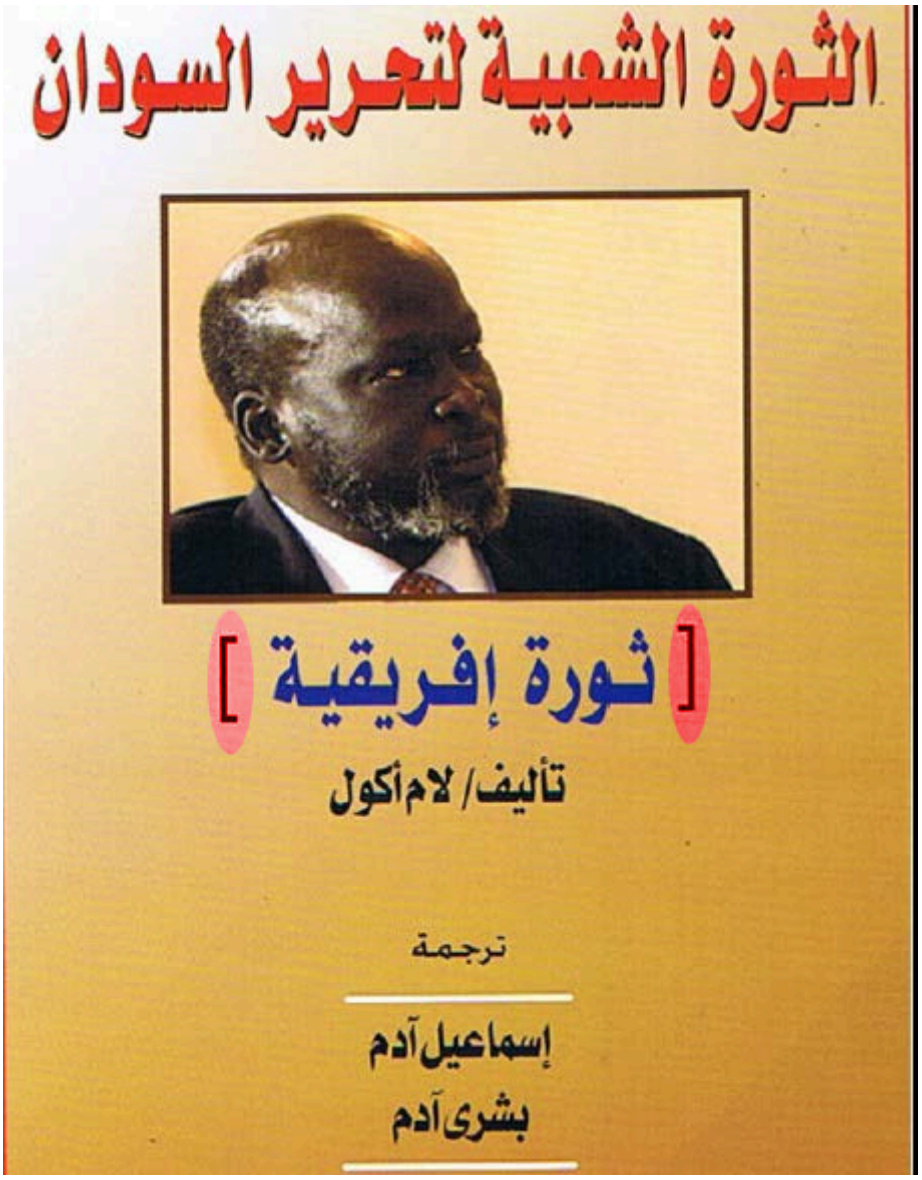
Unionists in SS and NS: Initiative for Cooperation Respecting Political and Territorial Integrity of both of North Sudan and South Sudan

Mazin Sakharov, ongoing draft, version 1: published 11 January 2026

This essay is an individual initiative made in good will. The target audience is citizens of the two sisterly nations: North Sudan and South Sudan. At no point is interference by citizens of either state in the political affairs of the other is assumed or implied. The respect of the sovereignty and independence of South Sudan by citizens of North Sudan, and conversely the respect of the sovereignty and independence of North Sudan by citizens of South Sudan is assumed and expected to be held by all individuals who are currently, or at some point in the future will be part of the initiative.

This initiative at this stage is made to see what common ground can be found:
1. To promote understanding *without provoking more misunderstanding* on the origin of problems and grave events which remain either misunderstood or remain mysteries. Irrespective of what these problems are, their negative impact is felt by the people. There is a need to define and find out through focused discussion what these problems are, and where they originate from.

2. To counter fundamental myths and falsehoods in the history of Sudan and its indigenous African identity. It must be forcefully reminded that a serious fallacy in Sudan is that both African and Arabic identities are treated with equal respect; that is to say, before any Sudanese an offer of two identity options is evenly presented, one Arabian and one African; all one has to do is to extend a hand and pick one! We know that this position is untenable. So far as the indigenous and *historical* African identity is concerned, it is undermined and treated with derision. To bring the point home even one example is one too many: when Dr. Lam Akol's book, 'SPLM/SPLA: Inside an African Revolution' was translated in Arabic, the phrase 'African Revolution' in the subtitle was put by the publisher in square brackets, like this [ثورة أفريقية]. A question thus is raised: who are these people who have the cheek to do this? Which lobby in dares to bring the Africanity of the SPLM/SPLA movement into question?

3. To promote and collaborate on various issues concerning the material and mental welfare of Sudanese refugees, migrants and Internally Displaced Persons.

Appendix 1. How the part of the subtitle of Dr. Lam Akol's book concerning the African identity of the SPLM/SPLA movement was placed in square brackets [ ]